

To: the Select Board, and the Planning and Public Works Departments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on plans for the North Amherst Intersection.

I would like to recommend creating a Coordinated Area Plan from Pine/Meadow/Montague/N. Pleasant/Sunderland intersection to northern bounds of properties on the north side of Cows Road. I believe traffic improvements must be grounded in a quality plan for all of North Amherst Village. Plan elements should include: 1. Acquire land in the core Village 2. Adopt a Version of Concept A. 3. Other Coordinated Area Plan Elements

1. Acquire land in the core village. Negotiate with owners of the two garages in the village core to acquire 24 Montague Road (Village Auto) .81 acres zoned BVC and 40 Montague Road (Potters Towing) .91 acres zoned mainly FPC with the remainder zoned BVC. Creating a larger parcel in the Village core is critical to making changes that would make North Amherst Village an outstanding attraction for the next 50 to 100 years.



Creating a larger parcel in the core would make at least some of the following improvements possible:

1. Expanding the library and moving it closer to the River
2. Shared parking
3. Adding a crossroad from Montague to Sunderland Roads
4. Adding new private development
5. Creating a new edge at the southern end to improve sight lines.

The combined site (.19 acre at the library, 8 Montague; 81 acre at Village Auto, 24 Montague; plus .91 acre at Potters Towing, 40 Montague totals 2 acres, although 40 Montague has sever constraints due to the Flood Prone Conservancy.

2. Adopt a version of Concept A for the North Amherst Village Intersection with low cost traffic improvements (striping, straighter edge at the junction of Montague/ Sunderland for better sight lines, stop sign, better signs showing one way traffic through Riverside plaza, etc.)
3. Other Coordinated Area Plan recommendations include:
 1. Village scale neighborhood business & residential development on appropriate sites
 2. Best practices for siting and design of new development & redevelopment
 3. Facade, landscape and signage improvements for existing businesses
 4. Public street tree plan
 5. Adoption of a Local Historic District for at least the National Historic Register District
 6. Connecting/expanding roads, trails, bike lanes/paths bus stops/shelters
7. Upgraded siting, architecture, facades, signs and landscapes to complement historic New England patterns and existing outstanding North Amherst properties. Best Regards



Many of these improvements have drawn significant public support during the Cecil planning process and subsequent planning efforts including intersection planning this year.

Best Regards,
Janet Keller December 7,, 2015

From: Jim Ellis [mailto:jimdellis@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 2:44 PM

To: Brestrup, Christine

Subject: north amherst intersection

I live one mile north of this intersection so am going through several times a day. It has always been a safety hazard but is getting more dangerous as traffic, speed have increased and drivers are cutting through a car repair shop in order to get in the "no stop lane". Recently an editorial writer in the Daily Hampshire Gazette suggested a novel, efficient, safe, low cost way to solve this problem and I would like you to consider it when you have the Dec 8 meeting. Jessica Mix-Barrington's idea was to make Montague Rd one way north until Cowles Lane where drivers would continue north or cross over to Sunderland Rd. and on to the intersection. This way there would be no merging, no traffic circles, no encroaching on anyone's property, no reconfiguring of the existing roads, little spending. Perhaps you could look up her letter in the Gazette or you get in touch with her on 39 Pine St., 549-0310. Thank you for your consideration. Trish Farrington, trishfarr45@gmail.com, 549-3622.

From: Cinda Jones <cjones@cowls.com>

Date: Monday, November 23, 2015 at 1:35 PM

To: "'Brestrup, Christine'" <brestrupc@amherstma.gov>, "'Mooring, Guilford'" <mooringg@amherstma.gov>, "'Ziomek, David'" <ziomekd@amherstma.gov>

Cc: Mollye Wolahan <mlockwood@cowls.com>, 'Evan Jones' <evan@cowls.com>

Subject: RE: Rotary

Thanks, Christine! The triangular rotary is best on the table at this point. Mollye will be talking with you about the specifics of our concerns at your next meeting. I appreciate the suggested potential of moving north the triangle entry to Riverside Stores and apartments. Moving it north to the existing opening would be most appreciated. Even moved I question whether one curb cut for 48 units plus many stores' customers is within zoning requirements or advisable. I'm thinking about the 800' cul de sac rule for fire safety.

Here is the idea Evan came up with. It solves problems and provides opportunities:

- A wide boulevard with separate entrance/exit at Riverside's north curb cut on the rotary
- The distance going in the wrong direction is minimized.
- The view of all options is seen and passed while driving
- A town land [acquisition] still works! ☺ The library and ball field can be connected by discontinuing Sunderland Road south of the new rotary.



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